CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1.   A method of using an email message to control a computer resource, comprising:

receiving an email message from a sender;

recognizing a reserved command word within the email message;

interpreting the email message as a command to be carried out on an

10   available computer resource; and

generating a command for execution on the available computer resource.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a result from the available computer resource; and

15   sending a reply email message communicating the result to the sender.

3.   The method according to claim 2, wherein the computer resource comprises a
computer database, the command comprises a database query and wherein the result
comprises the result of the database query.

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4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the resource comprises a computer
database and the command comprises a database query

5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the reserved command word

25   comprises a part of a subject portion of the email message.

6.   The method according to claim 1, wherein interpreting comprises parsing the
email message into parts defining the computer resource and the command.

30   7.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the email from the sender originates at
a palmtop computer.

8.   The method according to claim 1, carried out on a programmed processor protected by a firewall.

5   9.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the programmed processor comprises a server providing an intralan resource within the firewall.

10.   The method according to claim 1, carried out by executing a set of machine readable instructions stored on an electronic storage medium.

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11.   A method of using an email message to control a computer resource, comprising:

receiving an email message from a sender, the email message originating at a palmtop computer;
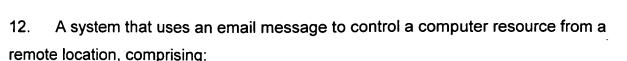
recognizing a reserved word within a subject portion of the email

5   message;

interpreting the email message as a command to be carried out on an available computer resource comprising a computer database by parsing the email message into parts defining the computer resource and the command;

generating a command as a database query for execution on the

10   computer database;

receiving a result from the available computer database; and

sending a reply email message communicating the result to the sender.

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12.   A system that uses an email message to control a computer resource from a remote location, comprising:

a first programmed processor having an email program that receives an email message from a sender;

5   a program operating on the first programmed processor that:

recognizes a reserved command word within the email message;

interprets the email message as a command to be carried out on an available computer resource; and

generates a command for execution on the available computer resource.

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13.   The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the program further:

receives a result from the available computer resource; and

sends a reply email message communicating the result to the sender.

15   14.   The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the computer resource comprises a computer database, the command comprises a database query and wherein the result comprises the result of the database query.

15.   The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the reserved command word

20   comprises a part of a subject portion of the email message.

16.   The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a palmtop computer wherein the email from the sender originates at the palmtop computer.

25   17.   The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a second programmed processor wherein the email from the sender originates at the second programmed processor.

18.   The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a firewall protecting the

30   first programmed processor.

19. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first programmed processor comprises a server providing an intralan resource within the firewall.

20. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the computer resource comprises
5   a computer database and the command comprises a database query.

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